Request for Publicity of Tourist Destinations in Maharashtra

2119. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government to provide adequate publicity to different tourist destinations in the State in its Overseas Publicity Campaign;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter; and

(c) what other incentives are proposed to be given so as to increase the arrival of foreign tourists in Bombay and Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Publicising tourist attractions of various states including Maharashtra in the Overseas Markets is a continuous process by the Department of Tourism.

(b) and (c) In order to promote tourism to India including Maharashtra, the Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments for promotion of major fairs and festivals, production of publicity material, development of tourism infrastructure familiarisation tours of Travel Agents and Travel Media. Tourist publicity material on various states including Maharashtra is also distributed through Government of India Tourist Offices in India and abroad.

Action Plan on South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement

@2120. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation have prepared an action plan to implement the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the member countries have prepared any concrete projects of Cooperation among themselves bilaterally or multilaterally ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The member countries of SAARC signed the framework agreement for the establishment of a South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement at Dhaka in April 1993. The Agreement, which will enter into force thirty days after the SAARC Secretariat notifies that all Contracting States have completed the formalities, provides for the establishment of the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement to promote and sustain mutual trade and economic cooperation among Contracting States through exchange of concessions. In accordance with the agreement, Contracting States have now to take the next step of negotiating tariff preferences on a product-by-product basis.

संसद सदस्यों की ओर से प्राप्त पत्र/अभ्यावेदन

2121. **श्री रामसिंह राठवा :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वाणिज्य मंत्री को पिछले छः महीनों के दौरान संसद सदस्यों की ओर से कितने पत्र/आवेदन पत्र/अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(ख) कितने मामलों में पन्द्रह दिनों के अन्दर पावती भेज दी गई थी और ऐसे कितने मामले हैं जिनके संबंध में अभी तक अन्तिम उत्तर नहीं भेजा गया है;

(ग) पन्द्रह दिनों के अन्दर पावती तथा तीन महीनों के अन्दर अन्तिम उत्तर न भेजने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) पावती तथा अन्तिम उत्तर न भेजने अथवा इसमें विलम्ब करने और संसद सदस्यों को गुमराह करने के संबंध में कितने अधिकारियों को दोषी पाया गया है और उन्हें क्या दण्ड दिया गया है ?

नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामलों और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) से (घ) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Export of Mica Products

2122. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the countries where Mica and Mica pro-

@ Previously unstarred Question 1086 transferred from 4-8-93.